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THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

Volume 34

San Francisco, California, March, 1952

Number 3

MAR 5 - 1952

A LETTER FROM LAUREL REYNOLDS

Dear Friends in Audubon:

We have had a good time these past two years, haven't we? We have grown, too, in size and scope, in spite of our age which is fast becoming middle (thirty-five). We are now one of the largest and most active branches of the National Audubon family, and I am certainly proud of us.

I suppose I should offer some justifiable reasons for this pride, and here they are: Our membership is close to five hundred, an increase of nearly four hundred since we became a branch of the National Society. Our horizons have broadened extensively. Formerly we were engaged only in bird-watching, and chiefly for our own pleasure. Now we are interested in the broad field of conservation, locally and nationally, without any diminishing of our original interest in birds. We have become a well known and vital force in the community. We have successfully sponsored two Audubon Screen Tours. We have conducted two courses in popular ornithology and are now sponsoring a course in natural science. We have sent a scholarship student each year to the California Audubon Camp at Norden, and this year we will provide two scholarships for this purpose. Our growth and broadened activities have made it necessary for us to make many changes in our organization and constitution. After months of work and study, this document is ready for the approval and adoption of the Society.

Our plans for the future include an effort to conserve a salt marsh area in the San Francisco Bay region. Work is being done on this, and it is hoped that the next year will bring about a realization of this ambition.

While these achievements and plans are important, they are the end and not the means of a far more valuable factor in our Golden Gate Audubon Society. I wonder if you all feel, as I do, the friendly spirit that permeates Audubon, that makes us want to stay on and visit with everyone after each meeting? A visitor from New York said, "Audubon is like a fraternity"—and it is, if by a fraternity one means a group bound together in friendliness and goodwill, with the common purpose of enjoying and helping others to enjoy the natural beauty of our world.

I thank you all for helping me. It has been an honor and a privilege to have been your president. I look forward to continuing to work with you through the years—and to having more good times!

Sincerely,
Laurel Reynolds

Piedmont, California
February 15, 1952

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

Our Society will sponsor a benefit performance of "Western Discovery" by Laurel Reynolds at the Oakland Auditorium Theater on March 14th at 8:30 p.m. The proceeds will be given to the Brighton C. Cain Memorial Fund to be used in the construction of a Nature Study Center near the Waterfowl Refuge at Lake Merritt. Upon completion, the Center will be maintained by the Park Department of the City of Oakland. It will house the collection of skins and natural science library left by Mr. Cain. It will serve as a meeting place for Scout and youth organizations and other groups interested in the wildlife in Lakeside Park. Until March fifth, tickets will be sold to patrons upon request. Send applications to Mr. Harold G. Peterson, 3548 - 65 th Avenue, Oakland 5, with return envelope and check for \$10. For this you will receive five tickets in the section of the auditorium reserved for patrons. Additional tickets will be sent upon request. After March fifth, tickets will be sold individually to the general public at \$2 and \$1 reserved seats.

Our Western bird artist, Mr. Harry C. Adamson, has generously contributed one of his beautiful waterfowl paintings to be auctioned during the evening, the amount to be donated to the Memorial Fund.

This is an opportunity for you and your friends to pay tribute to an Audubon friend whose life was dedicated to service to youth and to conservation education.

"CONSERVATION is an attitude of mind, a way of living." General Warren T. Hannum, Director, State Department of Natural Resources states: "In spite of the high cost of living today people still are prone to waste food and other essentials of our daily life; this, and the improper care of materials and equipment in our homes and at work, causes an unnecessary demand upon our natural resources . . . Everyone should recognize the vital necessity for all, young and old, in all walks of life, to avoid wasteful practices." These small tasks form the links in a mighty chain. Conservation Week March 7 - 14, and every week.

GRIDLEY-WILLOWS FIELD TRIP

Although stormy weather kept most people at home over the week-end of January 12th - 13th a few hardy souls did brave the heavy rain and did considerable birding from improved roads in the refuge areas. Sunday was fair after a night of rain and the group of 13 persons led by Howard Cogswell walked around Pond #6 of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.

Highlight of the trip was the observation of three Least Bitterns, one of which was watched from only eight feet away.

The Cogswell party of three also birded in the San Joaquin—Sacramento Delta area on Saturday and those species are included in the following total list of 74 species.

Pied-billed and eared grebe; white pelican; double-cr. cormorant; great blue heron; Amer. and snowy egret; black-cr. night heron; Amer. and least bittern; whistling swam; Canada, white-fronted and snow goose; mallard; gadwall; baldpate; pintail; green-wg. and cinnamon teal; shoveller; lesser scaup; buffle-head; ruddy duck; hooded and Amer. merganser; turkey vulture; white-tl. kite; red-tl., marsh, duck and sparrow hawk; ring-necked pheasant; sandhill crane (both species seen); Florida gallinule; coot; killdeer; gr. yellow-legs; least sandpiper; long-bill. dowitcher; avocet; herring, Calif. and ring-bill. gull; barn, burrowing and short-eared owl (dead on road); belted kingfisher; red-sh. flicker; black phoebe; horned lark; violet-gr. swallow; yellow-bill. magpie; crow; marsh wren; mockingbird; robin; starling (one bird); water pipit; loggerhead shrike; Audubon warbler; yellow-throat; house sparrow; west. meadowlark; yellow-hd., red-winged, tricolored and Brewer blackbird; Amer. and lesser goldfinch; savannah sparrow; Oregon junco; white-cr. and song sparrow.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Historian*.

GOLDEN GATE PARK SATURDAY TRIP

After sixteen days of rain, and one of sunshine, came Saturday, January 19th, and while the sun peeked out a few times, the sky was overcast most of the day. Seventeen members and their guests met at Forty-first Avenue on the south side of Golden Gate Park for a walk around the lakes. Here a flock of five male and seven female peacocks was, indeed, a beautiful sight for the start of our walk, which was along the South Lake, around the Middle and North Lakes, back of the buffalo paddock, to Spreckles Lake. A stop was also made at Stow Lake.

A lone Scaup Duck flew into Middle Lake and was identified as the Greater by the long white stripe on the wing. Crossing over to North Lake we found the place where we intended to eat lunch surrounded by water due to the heavy rains of the preceding days.

After luncheon we visited Spreckels Lake where Dr. Laurence Curl discovered an odd bird, in the midst of a large group of gulls, which he thought was a Gadwall. There was a doubt in my mind as to the identification as I would have called it a White-winged Scoter. Later I went to the California Academy of Sciences and looked at the mounted specimen of a Gadwall and still was in doubt. I wrote Mr. Curl and he answered that "I am not and was not at all satisfied with the identification as a Gadwall, but it seemed to be more that than anything else." He suggested that it be put down as a probable scoter, and so neither bird is listed in the list of birds for the day. It also saddened us to see so many gulls covered with oil.

On returning to the cars, one of the ladies picked up a bird, still warm, which had either flown into the car or was hit by a passing one. It was taken to the California Academy of Sciences, and identified as a female Townsend Warbler.

The following forty-five species were observed:

Eared and Pied-billed Grebes; Anthony Green Heron; Cackling Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Baldpate; Shoveller; Ring-necked Duck; Canvas-back; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Sparrow Hawk; Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California and Short-billed Gulls; Anna Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-breasted Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrushes; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Orange-crowned, Myrtle, Audubon and Townsend Warblers; Yellow-throat; House Sparrow; Spotted Towhee; Junco; Nuttall, Fox and Song Sparrows.

— LAURA A. STEPHENS, *Leader and Historian*.

MARIN PENINSULAS - SEARS POINT - NORTH BAY TRIP

On January 27th, 33 members and friends made the annual Marin Peninsulas circuit, also along Sears Point cutoff, Black Point area, Tubbs Island and Island No. 1, led by Howard Cogswell. The day was cool and overcast with good concentrations of water birds, especially western grebes and red-throated loons. Highlights included a great horned owl at close range on the Tiburon Peninsula and white-tailed kites treading over a Tubbs Island field. The area south of Black Point, from which the snowy owls were reported earlier this season, was new to most members, (the "snowy owls" may have been barn owls.)

The terrain included bay, bayshore, harbor, lagoons, flooded areas, roadsides, oak woodland and grassland and open fields.

The following 81 species were identified; plus 4 uncertain:

Red-th., horned, eared, western and pied-billed grebe; white and brown pelican; double-cr. and sp? cormorant; great blue heron; Amer. and snowy egret; green and black-cr. night heron; Amer. bittern; gadwall; pintail; shoveller; canvas-back; greater ? and lesser scaup; Amer. golden-eye; buffle-head;

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white-wg. and surf scoter; ruddy duck; red-br. merganser; turkey vulture; white-tl. kite; accipiter, sp?; red-tl., marsh and sparrow hawk; Calif. quail; Amer. coot; killdeer; black-bellied plover; long-billed curlew; spotted sandpiper; willet; gr. yellow legs?; least, red-bk. and western sandpiper; avocet; glaucous-wg., western, herring, Calif. and ring-bl. gull; horned owl; Anna hummingbird; belted kingfisher; red-sh. flicker; black and Say phoebe; horned lark; scrub jay; Amer. crow; chestnut-bk. chickadee; bush-tit; long-bl. marsh wren; Amer. robin; hermit thrush; western bluebird; ruby-cr. kinglet; water pipit; loggerhead shrike; Hutton vireo; Audubon and Townsend warbler; yellow-throat; house sparrow; western meadowlark; red-wg. and Brewer blackbird; house finch; Amer. and lesser goldfinch; spotted towhee; savannah and lark sparrow; Oregon junco; white-cr. and song sparrow.

— G. W. TREICHEL, *Historian*.

TOMALES BAY TRIP

The annual Tomales Bay trip was taken on Sunday, February 10th with about 35 members and friends attending. The writer was ably assisted by Dr. Foree, who led part of the group up the east side of the Bay, the balance walked to the Point, where on the ocean side the Wandering Tattler was seen.

The Harlequin Duck and many Loons were features of the successful day. There was a cool wind and overcast sky with the sun shining at times showing Spring's colors and blossoms. Thanks are due Larry Curl, who secured the necessary permission to drive through the McClure ranch, and to Mr. McClure who granted it.

The following 105 species were observed:

Common, Pacific and red-throated loon; Holboell, horned, eared, western and pied-bl. grebe; white and brown pelican; double-cr., Brandt and pelagic (Baird) cormorant; great blue heron; Amer. and snowy egret; black-cr. night heron; black brant; mallard; baldpate; pintail; shoveller; canvas-back; lesser scaup; Amer. golden-eye; buffle-head; harlequin duck; white-wg. and surf scoter; ruddy duck; red-br. merganser; turkey vulture; sharp-sh., Cooper, red-tl., Swainson, marsh, duck and sparrow hawk; Calif. quail; coot; black oyster-catcher; killdeer; black-bellied plover; surfbird; black turnstone; long-bill. curlew; wandering tattler; willet; least and western sandpiper; marbled godwit; avocet; glaucous-wg., western, herring, Calif., ring-bill., short-bill. and Heerman gull; Calif. murre; pidgeon guillemot; Anna hummingbird; belted kingfisher; red-sh. flicker; downy woodpecker; black and Say phoebe; horned lark; Steller and scrub jay; raven; Amer. crow; chestnut-bk. chickadee; titmouse; bush-tit; wren-tit; Bewick wren; robin; varied and hermit thrush; western bluebird; golden-cr. and ruby-cr. kinglet water-pitit; loggerhead shrike; myrtle and Audubon warbler; house sparrow; western meadowlark; red-winged, bicolored, tricolored and Brewer blackbird; brown-hd. cowbird; house finch; Amer. and lesser goldfinch; spotted and brown towhee; savannah sparrow; Oregon junco; white-cr., fox and song sparrow.

— CARLYLE SATHER, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS: from San Francisco, Mr. Joseph Lutz, Benjamin Pope, Mrs. Helen W. Pope, Mr. Fred A. Schneider, Mrs. Sigmund Stern, Mr. Paul von Haffen, Francis J. Walcott; from Oaland, Mr. F. R. Barnes, Mrs. Jess Carley, Ross Higgins, Mrs. Maya Wouters; from Berkeley, Mrs. Oras Black, Miss Luella B. Blair, Mrs. Bruce F. Crane; from Richmond, Mrs. Aileen Conn, Mrs. Mabel Steward; from El Cerrito, Mr. Clarence H. Smith; from Lafayette, Dr. Percy H. Jennings; from Danville, Mr. G. E. Johnson.

REPORT OF 1951 FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Month	Regular Sunday Trips	Attendance	Species
January	Tomales Bay	60	85
February	Marin County Peninsulas	35	78
March	Calaveras Reservoir	45	61
April	McCoy Ranch, Livermore	70	59
May	St. Mary's College	45	64
June	Tennessee Cove	28	55
July	Taylor State Park	15	41
August	Dumbarton Bridge	34	46
September	Bay Farm Island	100	36
October	Shell Beach	50	63
November	Conn Lake	30	83
December	Orinda Lake, San Pablo Reservoir	27	59
Average		34	61
Regular Saturday Trips			
January	Lake Merritt	30	41
February	Berkeley Aquatic Park	31	37
March	Golden Gate Park	21	37
April	Bay Farm Island	30	47
May	Tilden Park	15	43
June	Land's End	14	28
July	U. C. Campus—Strawberry Canyon	30	36
August	Redwood Canyon	13	23
September	Lake Merced	12	35
October	Dimond Canyon	30	35
November	Lake Merritt	30	33
Average		21	33
Special Trips			
April	Pinnacles National Monument	13	49
May	Los Banos	24	66
June	Calaveras Big Trees State Park	16	31
Average		18	49
Grand Average		33	49
Totals		848	214

According to Mrs. Stephens, 8 NEW species, Skua; Black and Common Terns; White-headed Woodpecker; Mountain Chickadee; Cassin Purple Finch; Green-tailed Towhee; and Grasshopper Sparrow, were seen during the year, bringing the total of the Golden Gate Audubon Society's LIFE-LIST to 272.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Chairman,*
Fields Trips Committee.

SCREEN TOUR LECTURE. Monday, March 10. "Wings and Talons" by Dr. Harold M. Hill.

NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE. March 16, Sunday, 3:00 p.m. Brazilian Room, Tilden Regional Park. "Common Mushrooms of the Bay Region" by Lee Bonar, Professor of Botany, University of California. Open to the public.

CALIFORNIA AUDUBON CONVENTION at Asilomar, April 5—8. You'll enjoy it. Good fellowship, good speakers, good films, good field trips, good fun.

MARCH MEETING

The 414th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, Madison at 14th Street, on March 13th, at 7:30 P.M. Following the business meeting, Mr. John Thomas Howell, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences and author of "Marin Flora," will give an illustrated lecture. His subject will be, "Wild Flowers Within One Hundred Miles of the Bay Area: With Emphasis on Ecological and Geographical Distribution". The public is invited. No-host dinner at Zerikote's at 6 P.M.

MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman of Program Committee.*

March — RODEO LAGOON — Trip

On Sunday, March 9, to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin Co. This will be our first visit since 1949 to this secluded valley just north of the Golden Gate. A considerable variety of water birds can usually be seen on the large lagoon and the nearby ocean; hawks are unusually numerous in this area. From San Francisco take any Marin Co. bus at 8:00 to 8:15, and get off at the first parking area beyond the Golden Gate Bridge. We will enter the Fort Baker Military Reservation in a body at 8:45. There will be a hike of about 3 miles. Leader, Kenneth Schulz. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch, and interested friends.

March — TILDEN PARK — Trip

On Saturday, March 22, to the Jewell Lake area in Tilden Park, Berkeley. Rufous hummingbirds can usually be found here at this time of year. From San Francisco take 8:07 "F" train and transfer to 67 bus at University Ave. Meet at Spruce Street Reservoir at 9:00. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars and interested friends. After lunch there will be an optional trip to Bear Creek Road.

March — Dumbarton Bridge - Sunol - Calaveras Reservoir — Trip

On Sunday, March 30. Meet at the parking area at the east end of Dumbarton bridge at 9:00. After looking over the water birds in this area, proceed via Niles Canyon to the Sunol Water Temple (at the cross road where route 21 comes in from the left, turn right) where we will bird until after lunch. Then proceed south to Calaveras Reservoir (Yellow-billed magpies are usually seen along this road), where there will be a hike of about one mile in to the Lewis Woodpecker tree. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope and interested friends.

YOSEMITE TRIP May 30—June 1. See January GULL for particulars.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Chairman.*

Field Trips Committee

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

President....Mr. Vaughan MacCaughey.....726 Cragmont Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 4-3770
Cor. Sec. .. Mr. Edward A. Mayers.....2695 Greenwich St., San Francisco 23, WE. 1-2447
Treasurer...Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4, AS. 3-8398
Editor.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Joint Membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine
Local dues only, \$1.50 per year

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

With this issue of THE GULL the Society incloses the text of a proposed new Constitution and By-laws for consideration by the members preliminary to a vote leading to adoption at the March meeting. The documents have been considered in detail at meetings of the Board of Directors and many informal discussions have been held with individual officers and directors. Opinions and comments have been sought from a representative number of members. At its meeting on January 25, 1952, the Board formally adopted the documents and authorized the President to send them in their provisionally printed form to all members. The original Constitution and By-laws were adopted in 1917. They no longer meet the needs of the expanded Society. Members who have questions or who want further information are requested to reach any officer or director of the Society before the March meeting in order that the essential business of adoption may be expedited. Your attendance at this important meeting is requested.

VAUGHAN MACCAUGHEY, *President.*

MEMBERSHIPS. The following new types of membership are now in effect: (1) Husband-and Wife: \$8 instead of \$10; one copy only of Audubon Magazine is sent; both must live at the same address; no other family combinations are eligible. The change applies to Sustaining Members also, where the rate is \$18 instead of \$20. (2) Student: Age limit 22; \$2 per annum; includes subscription to Outdoors Illustrated; does not include Audubon Magazine.

NOTICE OF INTENDED INCORPORATION

At the February 14th meeting of the Society the following resolution was passed without dissent. Present conditions make it desirable for the Society to take the legal form of a nonprofit corporation in the interests of (1) better treatment of possible gifts and bequests, (2) improved position with regard to hazards from possible property damage and public liability arising from the Society's activities and (3) income accounting. More detailed information, if wanted, can be obtained from any officer or director.

"WHEREAS, investigation has shown that it is for the best interests of Golden Gate Audubon Society, an unincorporated association, to adopt the form of a nonprofit corporation pursuant to the General Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of California, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of said Society on the twenty-fifth day of January Nineteen Fifty-two, at a duly called meeting of said Board approved said incorporation and authorized the President and Secretary respectively of said Society to sign and attest Articles of Incorporation and to file them with the Secretary of State of the State of California, and elsewhere as required, and,

WHEREAS, the Board has approved incorporation under the designation, 'Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.'

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by Golden Gate Audubon Society in meeting duly assembled this fourteenth day of February, Nineteen Fifty-two, that the prior acts of the Board in respect to incorporation as set forth above be and they hereby are confirmed and approved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Society hereby authorizes and directs its Board Board of Directors to take all such further steps as may be necessary to accomplish said incorporation."